

National Cultural Policy Submission

1472207

Public and anonymous

Individual



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

My name is [REDACTED], I am based in [REDACTED] and am an artist who works in glass. I recently graduated from the [REDACTED], where I studied glass. The [REDACTED] is one of only three remaining universities in Australia that still teach glassblowing, kiln forming, and coldworking. I currently work casually and as a contractor at the [REDACTED], using the skills I developed in university to work as a production assistant, teacher, and artist assistant.

As an emerging artist/craftperson, my main concerns for my future are financial and how that impacts my ability to practice as an artist. Currently, my work for the [REDACTED] falls under the Amusements, Events and Recreation Award, which I do not feel adequately reflects the expertise of those working in creative industries, particularly those of artists/craftspeople working as skilled contractors. Having a specific award for Art, Craft, and Design would also help those working as assistants to gauge a fair pricing structure for their work as contractors.

Alongside my artistic practice and my work as a casual production assistant, a contract teacher and hot shop assistant I also work as a casual retail assistant. Despite all my employment I still receive assistance from the government through Jobseeker for which I'm also required to meet point requirements through job applications, meetings, and hours worked. Currently there is no way to recognise the time I spend working on my artistic practice in this system and I struggle to make time when weighing up the need to earn money and meet point requirements. While I understand that instituting a policy like the basic artist income, similar to what the Republic of Ireland has, is likely out of reach. Installing measures that give emerging artists space to create within existing systems, like Jobseeker, by recognising hours worked, would be amazing.

Current government-funded schemes, such as residences, grants, and commissions, do much to reward established artists but fail to support artists in everyday, meaningful ways. The arts have much to offer to Australia, a way to create deeper meaning in everyday life and a way to establish national pride and points of distinction in regards to culture and tourism. Investing in artists who'll go on to become drawcards to the nation in the future is a way to create vibrant communities and a vibrant nation.

In addition to my own concerns raised above I also support the asks made by the Australian Craft and Design Centres (ACDC) in their submission to this consultation. The Institutions I have delt with in the ACDC such as the [REDACTED] do much to support artists. THE ACDC's knowledge and requests are sound, reasonable and will benefit creatives working in Australia.